

GROUP COVENANT

To keep your group functioning Biblically and in a secure atmosphere, we ask that you make this commitment together. These principles form a basis from which you encourage each other and hold one another accountable.

Quite literally READ THIS COVENANT TOGETHER during the first session and at least one other time mid-way through the study.

Confidentiality

I understand that what is said or shared in the group of a personal nature remains in the group unless the person who has shared gives permission. If a confidence is broken, I will repent and seek restoration with that person. (Proverbs 20:19 and 2 Timothy 2:14-18)

Respect

Out of respect for my fellow participants, I will arrive on time and do my part to help the group end promptly each time we meet. (1 Peter 2:17)

Commitment

I agree to come prepared each week. Each week's session requires less than half an hour of preparation (e.g., reading one chapter of *Finding Glory in the Thorns* by Larry & Lisa Jamieson). I agree to attend no less than four sessions. If I am sick or have to be out of town, I will contact the group leader. Since I know that prayer and Bible reading are life-giving, I will also work towards giving time every day to the Lord for these things. (Acts 2:42)

Participation

I will share responsibility for maintaining balanced group discussion. I know that the perspectives of all participants are valuable! None of us should think too highly or lowly about what we have to say within the group. I will be sensitive to the fact that we have different comfort levels when it comes to sharing and I will do my part to help each person feel satisfied with their level of participation. Some will feel stretched to share more than they are used to sharing; others may be challenged to share less. I will be open to being stretched in whatever direction God is leading me. I will come prepared to share briefly with others about what God is teaching me during my personal reading and reflection. I will also actively encourage others to share what God is showing them. (Romans 12:2-3)

Conflict Resolution

In the event there is a conflict with another member of the group, I will follow the Biblical model by first speaking privately with that person. If needed, I will seek out the group leader to provide assistance. I will cover the relationship with prayer. (Matthew 18:15-16)

Prayer

I understand we will begin and end every group session with prayer. We will make it a priority to give each individual or family representative an opportunity to share praises and prayer requests each week. (Colossians 4:2-3)

Ministry

I will be open to sharing my faith story with others so that hope, comfort and strength in Christ may grow among us. (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

Scripture Memory

I will identify one verse that personally inspires me during this study and I will memorize it. (Psalm 119:11)